SUBJECT: Citizens' Economic Crisis Relief

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FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPOWERING THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO APPROVE ABATEMENT AND DEFERRAL OF FEES, FINES, AND PENALTIES IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES

WHEREAS, the federal government has been without a budget since December 22, 2018, resulting in many employees not receiving multiple paychecks;

WHEREAS, an effect thereof has been the closure of several federal offices with employees not reporting to work while other federal employees are working without pay;

WHEREAS, within Calvert County approximately seventeen percent (17%) of the County's current workforce receives a W-2 Wage and Taxes Statement from the federal government;

WHEREAS, Calvert County imposes and levies several application fees, potential penalties upon taxpayers, including, but not limited to, recreation program fees, and late payment and late filing penalties;

WHEREAS, the current situation has brought to light the relative inflexibility of the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland (hereinafter, the "Board of County Commissioners") to provide relief in the form of abatement or deferral of fees, fines, and penalties for its citizens in times of economic hardship;

WHEREAS, the Board desires to consider this Ordinance as the necessary local legislation that would afford the of County Commissioners the opportunity to swiftly address circumstances of crisis affecting its citizens where abatement or deferral of fees, fines, and penalties as may be necessary and appropriate;

WHEREAS, a public hearing regarding this ordinance was duly advertised in at least one newspaper of general circulation for two consecutive weeks before the public hearing, as required by Section 9-105 of the *Local Government Article* of the Maryland Annotated Code and held on February 12, 2019, at which time the Board of County Commissioners received public comment; and

WHEREAS, upon due consideration of the comments of the public and staff, and in furtherance of the public health, safety and welfare, the Board of County Commissioners finds that it is in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Calvert County, Maryland, to adopt this Ordinance providing for the abatement or deferral of fees, fines, and penalties as may be necessary and appropriate, on a case-by-case basis, and as set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners that, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, for good cause shown, in instances of economic crisis affecting the citizens of Calvert County, the Board of County Commissioners may approve the abatement or deferral of fees, fines, and penalties by motion approved by a majority of the Board of County Commissioners in open session and memorialized by Resolution without further public hearing;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners that the Director of Finance & Budget, or its successor organization, shall advise the Board of the fiscal impact of any

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proposal to exercise this authority and, thereafter, prepare any budget adjustments that may be necessary;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners that, in the event any portion of this Ordinance is found to be unconstitutional, illegal, null or void, it is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners to sever only the invalid portion or provision, and that the remainder of the Ordinance shall be enforceable and valid;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Board of County Commissioners that the foregoing recitals are adopted as if fully rewritten herein; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Board of County Commissioners that this Ordinance shall be effective upon recordation and publication of a fair summary.

DONE, this 26th day of February, 2019, by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, sitting in regular session.

Aye: 5 Nay: 6 Absent/Abstain: 6	
ATTEST:	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND
Maureen L. Frederick, Clerk	Thomas E. Hutchins, President
	Kelly B. McConkey, Vice President
Approved for form and legal sufficiency by:	Earl F. Hance
John B. Norris, County Attorney	Mike Hart
Received for Record Fabruary 2 at 10 2 50 o'clock N recorded in Liber KPS No. 5 T-Vohns Sharenses by the County Common ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION.	I. Same day Steven R. Weems
Lothy & Smi	ith)